



## Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation

130 East 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ABANDONED LOTS, HOMES FOR VETERANS CREATE “GOOD” OPPORTUNITY**

*New initiative to stabilize military families and neighborhoods through home ownership*

**INDIANAPOLIS**—A new community impact initiative, **HOMES FOR GOOD (H4G)**, is committed to stabilizing military families and preserving blighted communities by building affordable homes on abandoned lots for qualifying veterans and their families to purchase.

Indianapolis, like many metro cities across our country, is fighting the problem of abandoned and blighted properties and the impact it has on the safety and integrity of its neighborhoods. Yet, the challenge to overcome this problem can be big when fear prevents individuals from taking a risk to develop such a property or live in a neighborhood seemingly plagued with urban blight.

Indiana has the fourth largest National Guard in the country and nearly 500,000 veterans living across our state. Many of those have served our country do so through multiple tours of duty which can de-stabilize their families and make it challenging for veterans to reintegrate into their communities. By connecting already existing resources, veterans who qualify for VA home loans and available abandoned lots, **H4G** will help make veterans' lives better who in turn will help change neighborhoods for the better.

“We look forward to being a part of **H4G**,” said Matthew Vincent, Director of Care for Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA). “Initiatives such as this need to be spread throughout the state so that our communities can work together to provide housing for veterans and their families”, added Vincent.

The goal of **H4G** is to build quality, affordable family homes for veterans getting back on their feet in challenged neighborhoods in the community. Though the effort will initially begin in Indianapolis, the initiative is being designed to be replicated across the state in urban and rural areas.

The first targeted **H4G** neighborhood is Mapleton-Fall Creek, a historic neighborhood in Indianapolis that has seen its share of urban decay in the past but is now experiencing an urban renewal through a comprehensive community development strategy and combination of public, private and philanthropic investment.

“**H4G** is a classic demonstration of our ability to successfully partner across sectors and neighborhoods to create a lasting and comprehensive community development solution for all Indianapolis residents”, commented Leigh Riley Evans, CEO of Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation.

The IDVA and the Indiana National Guard Family Program will work together with the Mapleton-Fall Creek CDC to recruit and qualify veterans for this effort; MFCDC will oversee the construction. The goal is to build four new homes for veterans and their families by the end of May 2016. The homes will be clustered together in a pocket-style format to create an instant feeling of “military” community and support.

The application and selection process will be open from October 28, 2015 through February 8, 2016. Interested veterans should contact the IDVA Main Office at 317.232.3910 or directly contact Matthew Vincent at [MaVincent@dva.IN.gov](mailto:MaVincent@dva.IN.gov).

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*The Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs is focused on aiding and assisting Hoosier veterans and qualified family members or survivors who are eligible for Benefits or advantages provided by Indiana and the U.S. government.*

*The Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the quality of life for all Mid-North residents by providing safe and affordable housing, working to stimulate economic opportunities for neighbors, and collaborating with partners who possess a wide range of skills and resources.*

*The Indiana National Guard Family Program promotes self-reliance and resilience to service members, veterans and their families, as well as volunteers. Core Programs include; family readiness, family assistance, child and youth development and community awareness. Areas of impact are: military family wellness, deployment cycle support preparedness training, reintegration and re-acclimation preparedness training and veteran, service member, and family resource assistance.*